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## U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

Washington, DC 20515

October 27, 2000

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### Latest Update: Appropriations Break Limits

Dear Colleague:

With the largest domestic appropriations bill still to finalize, Congress has already appropriated almost \$35 billion in budget authority (BA) above its own budget plan. In addition, the ten conference reports passed through October 25 total \$10.7 billion in outlays above the President's request.

#### Above the Budget Resolution

This spring, Congress passed a budget resolution that set appropriations targets \$59 billion above the appropriations caps for 2001. Now, recognizing that those new limits were too low, Congress raised the caps by a further \$37 billion. The House has approved \$622.3 billion in 2001 appropriations through October 25, \$22.0 billion in BA and \$14.3 billion in outlays above the budget resolution.

Table 1  
Appropriations Above the Budget  
Resolution Targets  
(dollars in billions)

	BA	Outlays
2000 appropriations	11.8	5.2
2001 appropriations	22.0	14.3
2002 appropriations	1.1	0.0
<b>Total above target</b>	<b>34.8</b>	<b>19.5</b>

Taking into account the gimmicks that shift 2001 costs back into 2000 or forward into 2002, the House is \$34.8 billion in BA and \$19.5 billion in outlays above the targets in this year's budget resolution. By unmasking timing games, the three-year total shows the full extent that appropriations breach the budget resolution. These levels will rise once Congress finishes the Labor/HHS conference report. Table 1 and Table 3 show that appropriations for 2000, 2001, and 2002 all exceed the limits set in the budget resolution.

#### Above the President

Eight of the ten appropriations conference reports passed through October 25 provide outlays in excess of the President's 2001 budget. In total, the ten bills exceed the President's budget by \$10.7 billion. That total reflects the Congressional Budget Office's estimates of the President's official requests, including supplemental funding. The President never officially requested \$3.9 billion in emergency funding for farmers and western firefighting that was added during final negotiations on Interior and Agriculture appropriations. Even excluding that \$3.9 billion, Congress has still appropriated \$6.8 billion more than the total the President requested officially and the emergency funds that he indicated support for in negotiations.

Table 2  
2001 Conference Reports  
Above the President's Request  
(dollars in billions)

	Outlays
Defense	4.275
Agriculture	3.560
Transportation	1.496
Interior	1.258
Energy & Water	0.674
VA-HUD	0.165
Mil. Construction	0.029
Treasury-Postal	0.017
Legislative Branch	-0.110
Foreign Operations	-0.666
<b>Total Above President</b>	<b>10.709</b>

Table 3  
**Appropriations This Session**  
 (Discretionary amounts in billions of dollars)

	House Status	BA	Outlays
<b>2000 Appropriations:</b>			
Total, October 25	enacted	586.6	616.9
Budget Resolution Target		574.8	611.7
<b>Amount Over Budget Resolution</b>		<b>11.8</b>	<b>5.2</b>
<b>2001 Appropriations:</b>			
Agriculture	conferenced	18.7	18.2
Commerce - Justice - State*	passed	34.9	35.8
Defense	enacted	287.6	277.8
District of Columbia*	passed	0.4	0.4
Energy & Water	conferenced	23.6	23.0
Foreign Operations	conferenced	14.9	15.3
Interior	enacted	18.9	17.3
Labor - HHS - Education	passed	99.5	95.1
Legislative Branch	conferenced	2.6	2.6
Military Construction **	enacted	8.8	8.6
Transportation ***	enacted	17.7	49.0
Treasury - Postal Service ***	conferenced	16.0	15.3
VA - HUD	conferenced	82.6	86.7
Net Effect of 2000 Supp **	enacted	-3.9	-5.7
Total, October 25		<b>622.3</b>	<b>639.4</b>
Budget Resolution Target		600.3	625.1
<b>Amount Over Budget Resolution</b>		<b>22.0</b>	<b>14.3</b>
<b>2002 Appropriations (advance appropriations and outlay delays):</b>			
Total, October 25		24.6	0.0
Budget Resolution Target		23.5	0.0
<b>Amount Over Budget Resolution</b>		<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Total Over Budget Resolution, 2000-2002</b>		<b>34.8</b>	<b>19.5</b>

*Note: Figures may not add due to rounding.*

*\* CBO has not yet provided cost estimates for the DC or CJS conference reports.*

*\*\* MilCon does not include the effect of the 2000 supplemental, which was a combination of appropriations, rescissions, and timing shifts.*

*\*\*\* \$348 million in BA and \$217 million in outlays that were passed in Transportation appear instead in Treasury-Postal, which would normally include these items.*

Sincerely,

  
 John M. Spratt, Jr.  
 Ranking Democratic Member